

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 032424

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01 EB-11

RSC-01 /058 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:HHLANGE:RLW

APPROVED BY EA/ANP:LJMOSER

EB/ICD/ISM:MDUX (SUBS.)

EB/IFD/OIA:MKENNEDY (SUBS.)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032424

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, AS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE TALKING POINTS FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY VISIT

DEPARTMENT BELIEVES DEP SEC RUSH VISIT MAY PRESENT
OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE TALKING POINTS ON MINERALS
POLICY AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT, BUT DOES NOT WISH TO
INVITE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE REACTION IN THESE AREAS.
REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS, AND
GOA OFFICIALS TO WHOM THEY MIGHT BE DIRECTED. YOUR
SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS ARE ALSO
INVITED. BEGIN QUOTE:

AUSTRALIA HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN "RESOURCES
DIPLOMACY" WITH RESPECT TO ITS OWN VAST MINERAL
RESOURCES, BUT WE ARE UNCERTAIN OF THE MEANING OF THIS
POLICY. THIS MAY BE A SENSITIVE TOPIC, BUT, DEPENDING
ON THE JUDGEMENT OF OUR AMBASSADOR IN CANBERRA, YOU
MIGHT:

-- ASK FOR CLARIFICATION OF AUSTRALIAN REMARKS
ABOUT "RESOURCES DIPLOMACY." DOES AUSTRALIA INTEND TO
PARTICIPATE IN FORMATION OF MINERALS PRODUCERS'

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PAGE 02 STATE 032424

ORGANIZATIONS, AND WHAT WOULD BE THE GOALS OF SUCH

ORGANIZATIONS? WHAT WILL BE THE SHAPE OF THE INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION (IGBA), TO BE
DISCUSSED BY AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES AT THE CONAKRY

CONFERENCE OF BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES IN EARLY MARCH?

AUSTRALIA WILL HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER
PROBLEMS OF RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIES AND DEVELOPMENT.
THIS SPECIAL SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE IN MARCH OR APRIL
IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN ALGERIAN REQUEST. HOWEVER,
AUSTRALIA'S INTERESTS AND OUTLOOK DIFFER FROM THAT OF
THE GROUP OF 77 WHICH HAS SUPPORTED THE ALGERIAN
REQUEST. YOU MIGHT:

-- INQUIRE ABOUT AUSTRALIAN VIEWS ON THE SPECIAL UN
SESSION, ITS TIMING, DURATION, AGENDA AND EXPECTED
OUTCOME.

AUSTRALIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD FOREIGN INVESTMENT ARE
ANOTHER SENSITIVE ISSUE, AND ONE WHICH OUR EMBASSY HAS
BEEN FOLLOWING CLOSELY. WE DO NOT WISH TO FORCE THE
GOA INTO A DEFENSIVE POSTURE ON THIS POINT, BUT IT IS
AN AREA IN WHICH WE ARE DEEPLY INTERESTED. SUBJECT TO
THE JUDGEMENT OF OUR AMBASSADOR, YOU MIGHT WISH TO:

-- EXPRESS THE INTEREST WE HAVE IN AUSTRALIAN
INVESTMENT POLICY, GIVEN THE LARGE AMERICAN PRIVATE
INVESTMENT THERE. POINT OUT THAT THE US FAVORS
FREEDOM OF CAPITAL MOVEMENT, AND THAT FREE CAPITAL
FLOWS ARE OF INTEREST TO AUSTRALIA NO LONGER ONLY AS A
RECIPIENT, BUT ALSO AS A CAPITAL EXPORTER (PRIMARILY TO
OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE PACIFIC BASIN). END QUOTE. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BAUXITE, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINERALS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE032424
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HHLANGE:RLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740226/aaaaayne.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE TALKING POINTS FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY VISIT DEPARTMENT BELIEVES DEP SEC RUSH VISIT MAY PRESENT
TAGS: EGEN, AS, US, D, (RUSH, KENNETH)
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005